

**MINUTES OF  
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 26, 2003**

**Members Present:** Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; J. David Cubbage; Laurence Mason; Sharon Grove McCamy; Sam Poles and Liz Cook.

**Members Absent:** Ann McCarty and Larry Weeks

**Guests Present:** Joe Romano; Birney Robert; Effie M. Fox; Mark P. Nary; James Sizemore; Elizabeth S. Bullard and Parker Bullard.

**Staff Present:** Fran Williams

**1. Approval of January 29, 2003 Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Per Bang-Jensen stated that he would like to amend Item #4 to include the following statement: "Joe Romano volunteered that he would agree to remove any future access to Route 17 pursuant to acceptance of Stribling Drive into the State road system."

On motion made by Sharon McCamy and seconded by Per Bang-Jensen it was moved to approve the January 29, 2003 Committee Meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Consider Recommending Stribling Drive and Arlene Court for Rural Additions. (Item #6)**

Liz Cook distributed a map showing the location of Stribling Drive and Arlene Court. Ms. Cook stated that the current zoning in that area is R-1, which allows .9 dwelling units per acre. Ms. Cook stated that the maximum number of lots available for Mr. Romano appears to be four (4); Mr. Sizemore could possibly create a maximum of five (5) lots; and there are other parcels in the area that may have subdivision potential.

Ms. Cook stated that it is her understanding that if there is any intention to further develop the property along these roads they would not qualify under the Rural Addition program. The roads would have to come in as subdivision streets, with the developer making the necessary improvements to bring them up to VDOT standards so that they could be accepted into the State highway system. Ms. Cook explained that the Rural Addition program is very limited and if any subdivisions have been done recently or if any are proposed along the road, it would not be eligible to come into the Rural Addition program. Ms. Cook further explained that a road could still be taken into the System, but it would have to be in association with the development of the parcels as they were subdivided and each section of the road brought up to VDOT standards.

Dave Cubbage stated that the policy's intent is to make sure that VDOT is not put in the position of generating public roads to satisfy a development or for any speculative interest. Mr. Cubbage stated that the wording is somewhat complicated, but simply put, if you can divide the property, as can be done here, then the road does not qualify for the Rural Addition program.

Ms. Cook stated that there are some alternative ways to divide property that are not considered a "subdivision" by the County. An example would be a Family Transfer where property is transferred to an immediate family member, which can be done on a private street. With a Family Transfer there are

some stipulations, including the requirement that the property be owned by an immediate family member for a period of ten (10) years.

Ms. Cook further stated that the situation for Arlene Court is even more unique because it is off another private street and further away from a public road.

***Mr. Romano requested a formal survey of what needs to be done to bring Stribling Drive up to VDOT standards so that he will have some idea of what the expense will be. Dave Cabbage agreed to provide Mr. Romano with the information in writing. Mr. Cabbage will also include cost estimates for Arlene Court.***

Matthew Smith asked Mr. Sizemore if he would be willing to bear any necessary expense of bringing Arlene Court up to VDOT standards. Mr. Sizemore said that he would not. ***Mr. Sizemore asked if a bond had been posted for the improvements. Liz Cook stated that there is no money from a bond on this project. Mr. Sizemore asked if there had ever been a bond on this subdivision, which he believes was completed in 1989, along Stribling Drive and Arlene Court. Liz Cook will check to see if there were any public road requirements at the time of the subdivision.***

**3. *Consider a Petition to Lower the Speed Limit on Springs Road (Route 802) Between Route 29 in Warrenton to Fauquier Springs/Rappahannock River – Effie M. Fox (Item #7)***

Effie Fox read from a petition, which was recently sent to the Committee, stating that this road has become increasingly dangerous because of heavy, through traffic with points of origin or destination other than this road. This road is narrow with no shoulders but has a number of blind curves, hills and blind entrances. The speed at which traffic generally moves does not allow for vehicles entering the road to accelerate before being overtaken. This also applies to vehicles trying to exit into driveways. The Turnbull area is especially subject to these problems. Ms. Fox stated that the stretch of road through the Village of Turnbull is posted at 45 mph. There is a hill coming from the direction of Springs Road where Ms. Fox was rear-ended last year while she was waiting to make a left-hand turn. Ms. Fox stated that the young man who struck her was very distraught and said he was going the speed limit, but said that he did not see her.

Ms. Fox stated that she and Ted Bullard have spoken with a number of people who live along Springs Road as well as other roads that access it, such as Holtzclaw Road, Turnbull Road and Hart's Mill Road. Many neighbors concur that it is hard to see vehicles coming as well as the fact that many motorists are impatient and will sometimes pass on double yellow lines. They have gathered 47 signatures on the petition requesting a reduction in the speed limit on this portion of the road. They were happy to have someone address this matter because this is a safety issue.

Birney Robert stated that she has had similar experiences as Ms. Fox because of a deadly corner on Hart's Mill Road (Route 688). Ms. Robert stated that there are mailboxes completely blocking a motorist's line of sight. There is a safety issue because of pedestrian traffic, farm vehicles and a growing concern for teenaged drivers who must use this road.

Dave Cabbage stated that this road has varying speed limits (from Business Route 29 to the Town Limits – 25 mph; from the Town Limits to Route 1133 – 35 mph; from Route 1133 to Route 688 the speed limit is not posted, which means it is 55 mph; from Route 688 to the Culpeper line the speed limit is posted at 45 mph).

***Dave Cabbage stated that VDOT will conduct a speed study between Route 1133 and Route 688 as well as the Village of Turnbull within the next 30 – 60 days and will have this item put back on the agenda once it has been completed.***

Ms. Fox stated that a speed study was done within the last two years but she was told no reason was found to lower the speed limit. Mr. Cabbage replied that a speed study is not something that is absolute and then that's it forever. A speed study can be done periodically and then compare previous ones to what is taking place currently.

**4. Consider a Request for Traffic Calming Measures for the Edgehill Subdivision Including Those Noted Below – Mark Nary. (Item #9)**

- A. Speed Bumps for Ridgedale Drive and Edgehill Drive.**
- B. Reducing the Speed Limit to 15 Miles Per Hour.**

Liz Cook stated that the Board of Supervisors recently passed a Resolution for the installation of a “Watch For Children” sign in the Edgehill Subdivision. However, Ms. Cook noted that there have now been some changes in VDOT’s protocol. Dave Cabbage discussed VDOT’s Traffic Calming Policy that provides details on each measure of traffic calming. **Copies of the Traffic Calming Policy will be mailed to Committee members.** Mr. Cabbage stated that a one-time Resolution is needed for the County to adopt the Traffic Calming Policy. Mr. Cabbage further stated that Albemarle County has adopted this policy and he will try to get a copy of their Resolution. It was noted that while “Children at Play” signs would not necessarily fall under this policy, it would cover such things as 3-way stop signs, speed bumps (which are not usually done in subdivisions) and the reduction of speed limits.

Mark Nary stated that because he is experiencing problems in his neighborhood with teenagers speeding, he cannot let his three boys ride their bikes. Mr. Nary noted that there is a hill with a blind spot near his house. Mr. Nary stated that he has contacted the parents of these teenagers, but has not received their cooperation. Mr. Nary stated that the Sheriff’s Office has run radar in this neighborhood, but it is hard to catch motorists who are speeding. Mr. Nary stated that he is requesting to have the speed limit lowered to a minimum of 25 mph. Dave Cabbage stated that the problem may be an enforcement issue. **Sharon McCamy stated that she will personally talk with the Sheriff’s Office to discuss this issue.** Dave Cabbage stated that the radar trailer, which flashes the speed of a vehicle as it goes by, has now been repaired and may be of use in this situation.

**5. Consider Traffic Calming Measures/Signage for Union Church Road (Route 632) and Sumerduck Road (Route 651). (Item #2)**

Sharon McCamy stated that citizens in Sumerduck are absolutely delighted about the signs which have already been installed. Dave Cabbage stated that regardless of the Traffic Calming Policy, if a street needs to have the speed limit lowered for safety reasons, it will be done.

**6. Consider the Proposed Engine Breaking Signage. (Item #3)**

Liz Cook stated that she received an e-mail from Sheriff Joe Higgs who indicated he would be happy with the sign which has the least wording. However, Paul McCulla has advised Ms. Cook that the recently adopted Ordinance does **NOT** prohibit engine braking, but rather placed a ban on excessive noise. Therefore, since the signs are not correct under the current Ordinance, a revision will need to be made. Dave Cabbage stated that he will keep the signs on file and wait to hear from the Committee before proceeding.

**7. Consider Access Issues at the Intersection of Routes 610 and 28 in the Midland Service District. (Item #4)**

Dave Cabbage stated that he does not have any additional information at this time. Mr. Cabbage suggested putting this item on a reserve list for the Six-Year Plan and let it work its way up. Mr. Cabbage recommended targeting Midland Route (Route 610) so that improvements are not from

Primary money. Otherwise, it would not be eligible to be part of the Six-Year Plan. ***Dave Cubbage will take a closer look at the guardrail issue for this location. Matthew Smith will update Edgar Messick on the status of this item.***

**8. *Consider Deceleration Lanes Along Route 28 for Trinity Plastics in the Remington Service District. (Item #5)***

Sharon McCamy stated that there is a proposed development across the road and the Committee may need to take a look at its traffic study. Dave Cubbage stated that a turn lane from Route 28 onto Route 29 is proposed. Sharon McCamy stated that the road configuration in this area will need to be looked at very closely and suggested taking this item off the agenda until the development across the road is considered.

**9. *Receive an Update on the Condition of Botha Road (Route 661) – Glenn Jewell. (Item #8)***

Mr. Jewell was not present at the meeting. Sharon McCamy stated that there has been some discussion about site visibility at corners and a package including photographs was sent to the Committee. Ms. McCamy stated that there have been suggestions to clear some of the trees and growth in order to get better visibility along that road. ***Dave Cubbage will look into this matter to see what is obstructing visibility.***

**10. *Consider the Six-Year Improvement Plan Priorities. (Item #11)***

Liz Cook stated that this refers to the Six-Year Plan for Primary Roads. Ms. Cook stated that the Public Hearing was held earlier this year than it had been last year so the Committee did not go through the process of proposing priorities. Ms. Cook stated that the Public Hearing was held last month and that Ms. McCamy went with the Committee's current priorities. Ms. McCamy stated that she stressed the safety improvements needed for Route 28 and the addition of Route 29/215. Ms. McCamy stated that she also discussed consideration of transit and long-range planning. Liz Cook asked if the Committee still wanted to go through the formal process even though the Public Hearing has already been held. Matthew Smith stated that this would not be necessary since the Six-Year Plan is basically the same as last year.

**11. *Receive an Update on a Proposed TEA-21 Grant for Design and Study of Proposed Realignment of Route 215, Intersectional Improvements at Route 215 and Route 29, and a Proposed Connection From Route 29 to Route 66 Near Route 215. (Item #12)***

Liz Cook stated that the County was asked to make a proposal for Federal funding of the TEA-21 program, which would not require matching funds. Ms. Cook showed the Committee two maps outlining the study areas. Ms. Cook stated that Fauquier County and Prince William County staff are looking for a way to take Route 29 to Route 66. Sharon McCamy stated that the concern is that in the near future it will be almost impossible to get to Route 66 through Gainesville because of the growing number of developments in that area. This study area presents an alternative for Route 29 alignment to Route 66. Liz Cook stated that Prince William County does not want the alignment to go beyond Route 66.

**12. *Receive an Update on Traffic Safety and Speeding Concerns at Independence Avenue and Route 17. (Item #13)***

Sharon McCamy stated that she has spoken with Dr. J. David Martin, Superintendent of Fauquier County Public Schools, but has not received a response. Ms. McCamy stated that Dr. Martin is concerned about the potential for adjacent development and wanted to think about the issues before giving her a response.

Matthew Smith asked about the status of having the flashing lights moved. Dave Cubbage stated that the School Board will need to send VDOT a letter requesting that this work be done and also pay for its completion. ***Liz Cook stated that she will forward another copy of the approved Resolution to Mark Cornwell as well as a letter outlining what is needed from the School Board.***

***13. Receive an Update on the Revenue Sharing Program. (Item #14)***

Liz Cook stated that this is another program the County may be able to apply for when matching dollars are available. Ms. Cook stated that quite often there is money that is unclaimed because no one is applying for it. Matthew Smith stated that the Northern Sports Complex may be able to take advantage of this program. Sharon McCamy agreed and said this would be something to explore.

***14. Consider Improvements to Turner Mountain Road (Route 773) Possibly as a Pave-in-Place Project. – Benjamin J. Graham (Item #10)***

Benjamin Graham was not able to be at tonight's meeting, but would like to attend a future meeting to discuss his concerns.

***15. Other Items (Item #15)***

Matthew Smith referred to an e-mail included in the Committee's packet from Dave Cubbage about the Commonwealth Transportation Board voting to move ahead with both I-81 Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) proposals. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to review these two proposals since he and the Committee had concerns about truck tolls as well as the impact on Fauquier County roads. Liz Cook stated that a timeline is needed on the actions required since there is a 60-day review period. Ms. Cook stated that a special Committee meeting may be needed.

Matthew Smith asked if Certificates of Appreciation had been prepared for Harry Atherton and Bob Moore. ***Liz Cook stated that she will take care of preparing these.***

Sharon McCamy stated that a milk truck almost rear-ended a school bus picking up children near Morgansburg Road and Route 17. Fortunately, the school bus was not hit, but the milk truck did run into the median. Jimmy Weeks has requested that a day-glow green "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign be installed. ***Dave Cubbage will follow-up on this request.***

Ms. McCamy stated that there were a couple of bills before the General Assembly that changed the way VDOT deals with Land Use authority. ***Liz Cook will contact Randy Wheeler for a copy of the legislation.***

Sam Poles stated that he was recently contacted by Jimmy Timberlake about the numerous roadside memorials throughout the County. Mr. Timberlake has lost two brothers and each time he sees one of these memorials, it brings up painful memories for him. Mr. Poles noted that these memorials are a very delicate subject for many people. Mr. Cubbage stated that VDOT tries to leave them up unless they create a safety or visibility issue.

Sam Poles asked about the status of the work being done on Leeds Manor Road (Route 688) to straighten the curve. Dave Cubbage stated that the contractor thought they would have to blast rock, but found this was not necessary.

***Per Bang-Jensen asked for an update on the Eastern By-Pass sound study. Dave Cubbage stated that the report should be available sometime during the month of April.***

Per Bang-Jensen stated that a recent editorial in the newspaper discussed the problem of litter along the County's roads. Mr. Bang-Jensen agreed that this is a real eye sore and noted that the Keep Fauquier Clean program is not very active at this time. Sam Poles stated that the Adopt-a-Highway program is very beneficial to the County. Sharon McCamy stated that some counties require covers for pick-up trucks carrying trash and either give them away or sell them very reasonably. Ms. McCamy stated that this is not something in place at the County landfill, possibly because of the enforcement issue.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the Committee may want to take a look at the list of accidents that have occurred in the County.

Liz Cook stated that the Committee may want to consider Urban Street Standards. Ms. Cook stated that the County will be seeing more and more requests for things in the Service Districts for things that are not typical (i.e., alleys, less right-of-way, less pavement, etc.) ***The Committee will consider Urban Street Standards at another time.***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.